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SUNDAY
OCTOBER 17 '54

A perfectly beautiful day.

Sylvia and Jean Monnet came to see me this morning at La Lanterne. Jean has given a great deal of thought to the future of European unification. He thinks some of the personalities genuinely favoring it must organize themselves for this purpose. This influences him in his still hesitant attitude as to when he will resign as President of the High Authority. He intends to do so at some date before his term expires on February 1st, 1955, but does not want to take such an action under circumstances where it might embarrass the decision on the London agreements in the French Parliament. He hopes the Socialist Party, in connection with Mendès' bid to it to enter the Government, may be able to contract for Mendès' support of a European Assembly, popularly elected.

The Gruenthers, the Chambers, Harold Callender, Obby, and Ronnie lunched with me.

Late in the afternoon, Ronnie and I made a little tour of the countryside, had a look at the Pavillon de Musique de Madame at Versailles, then spent an hour at Madame Bouvier's. Madame Bouvier, who is well along in years, sold her Paris antique business some years ago, installed herself at V[illeneuve]s, and announced she was going into retirement. Something must [have] [happened] up again, for she undoubtedly has the best stock of fine furniture [I've seen] in this whole region. The prices are commensurate with the quali[ty]. [Her] uses the ciphers for thousands, so, if you ask the price of anything, you get an answer like 850, which actually means 850,000 francs.

E. continues quite ill in town.

Th[anks] to the good weather, the circulation on the roads attained today a remarkable degree of congestion. Michel reports he spent one hour in a single jam.

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A trickle of guests made their way through the traffic for dinner tonight — Marie Louise Bousquet, the Frank Giles, Lulu de Waldner, and André de Staercke. Once inside the house, we had an appropriate celebration.

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